THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Sir, the telephone exchange in Syunshi under Bironkhal block has been working satisfactorily for the last one year except during the month of April'99 due to interruption in satellite link and during the month of September'99 due to fault in the power plant/exchange.

(b) and (c) No Sir, the technical work related to the exchange is being attended to by the Junior Telecom Officer posted at Pauri. However, a regular mazdoor posted at Syunshi is looking after the day-to-day maintenance works of the exchange.

Direct dialing facility in Orissa

2018. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the communication network in Orissa is yet to improve to Direct Dialing System within the district;

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide this facility to every district in Orissa; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in introducing this facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The Communication Network in Orissa is adequate within the district. The direct dialing facility on code "90" is available within a Long Distance Charging Area(LDCA) which generally represents a revenue district. The charging of calls within a LDCA however depends upon the radial distance between two charging centers.

Direct dialing at 180 sec.pulse rate (Inter-dialing without STD code) is also provided when:—

(i) Two Short Distance Charging Areas(SDCAs) are adjacent.

(ii) The charging centers of two SDCAs, within the same or adjacent LDCAs is upto 50 Kms.

(iii) The charging centers of two non adjacent LDCAs is upto 50 Kms.

Fall in mail traffic

2019. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the onset of electronic communications,

the daily mail traffic in the Postal Department has fallen considerably particularly in the Metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details of the mail fall in the last three years;

(c) its likely impact on the postal infrastructure;

(d) what is the status of postal mail world wide; and

(e) what steps are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Despite the onset of the electronic communication there is no overall reduction in the mail traffic in the country. This is evident from the total mail traffic handled by the Department as given in the table below:

Year	Total mail traffic
1996-97	1479.52 crores
1997-98	1545.75 crores
1998-99	1549.82 crores

In fact, in some of the metros, like, Bangalore, Chennai, Calcutta and Hyderabad the volume of mail has increased or has remained steady. However, there is some marginal fall in traffic in Delhi. In Mumbai the Metro mail traffic for the year 1997-98 show a fall over the figure of 1996-97 but that happened due to the policy of the department to de-congest mail traffic of Mumbai by diverting mail of the neighbouring districts, to speed up mail movement and deliveries in those areas.

(d) Regarding the status of postal mail world-wide, as per a study conducted by Universal Postal Union, a specialised agency of United Nations, there was 0.9% increase in the mail traffic from 1985 to 1995. However, as per the same study, the letter mail volume is expected to increase world-wide by 2.5% from 1995-2005.

(e) The department has taken the following steps in this regard:—

(i) Installation of automatic mail processing systems at Mumbai and Chennai;

(ii) Computerisation of Registration Sorting work in the mail offices;

(iii) Computerisation of Transit Mail Offices in a phased manner;

(iv) Segmentation of mail into various channels, called green Channel, Metro Channel, Rajdhani Channel, Business Channel etc.;

(v) Regular monitoring of mail processing system and delivery work;

(vi) Live Mail Survey at regular intervals both in rural and urban areas to streamline mail transmission and delivery system.

Telephone connections in the villages

2020. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages still without telephone facilities in the country, state-wise;

(b) whether Government have a time bound programme to provide telephone facilities in these villages; and

(c) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) About 2.49 lakhs villages are still left without telephone facilities in the country as on 1-3-2000. State-wise details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The Government plans are to provide telephone facility in all the remaining villages by end of 9th Five year Plan *i.e.* March, 2002 as per following programme:

Year	Target for the Deptt.of Telecom services
1999-2000	45000
2000-2001	70000
2001-2002	95100

Private Fixed Service Providers share is 56615 Village Public Telephones.